Undocumented Workers

An isolated, medically underserved population that needs YOUR help
Community Health Partnership of Illinois: Four Decades of Service to Farmworkers

• Primary Health Care Clinics
  – Aurora, Woodstock, Mendota, Kankakee, Hoopeston, Rantoul

• Dental Clinics
  – (Aurora, Kankakee, Mendota)
John Hayes DO – CCOM 2013 grad
Community Health Partnership of Illinois
Schweitzer Fellowship project

• Health Screening events
• One on one medication compliance counseling
• Developed simple written medication instructions
• Developed “mobile chart” for chronic conditions
• Working on improving pt. referral network + process
• See patients, present to “mentor” doctor, develop plan
• Interpreted in the clinic, helping pts. communicate
• Helped clinic develop Pharmacy Assistance Program
• Helped clinic implement sample medicine dispensary
1.5-3 million farm laborers in the US
65,000 in Illinois

Dept. of Agriculture estimates 50% of our agricultural workforce is undocumented labor

Agriculture consistently rates in top 3 most hazardous occupations in the US

Migrant farm worker rated as “worst job in America”

Workers, families vulnerable due to lack of legal, regulatory protections, immigration status, low income, uninsured, uninsurable
Who are they?

- Young (50% <31)
- Male (75%)
- Immigrants from Mexico (71%)
- Uninsured, Uninsurable (90%)
- Sub-poverty wages (91%)
- Increasing trend towards “seasonal” farm workers
  - Families living in community
Realities of Migrant Farmworkers that Impact Health Status

Workers and families often live where they work
  - Isolated communities
  - Exposure to toxins
  - Lack of opportunity

Access to health care limited
  - Unpredictable work hours
  - Lack of transportation,
    - language
    - culture differences
  - $$$
  - Racism
Systemic Barriers to Agricultural Workplace Health and Safety

- **OSHA**
  - Mandates Field Sanitation and water only for farms with 11+ workers

- **Worker Compensation**
  - Only comparable to coverage for other workers in 12 states, not in Illinois
Promotores de Salud
Popular Education Model

- Effective education is situated in the lived experience of the participants

- Dialogue, role modeling rather than a didactic approach deepens understanding, likelihood of change

- Popular Education has the power to raise consciousness (ex: understanding, solving field sanitation problem > community empowerment in other areas)
Migrant Hispanic Men

- Machismo – communicate with his family
- Explain meds – “mas fuerza y energía en su trabajo”
- Explain disease – “menos energía, roba su fuerza”
- Ask about pesticide exposure
- Educate on proper lifting
- Screen for substance abuse
- When in doubt, use potency...
Migrant Hispanic women

- Fat babies – sometimes “culturally” not seen as bad
- Ask about safety at home
- They do the cooking – give culturally specific advice
  - Number of tortillas a day, cooking oils, clay pots
- High incidence of anxiety and depression – hard lives
- Screen Children for lead poisoning
- Often defers to husband for treatment plan
- Diabetes, Hypertension, Women’s Health
Undocumented Urban Underserved

- Massive Undocumented workforce in Chicago
  - Maids, Janitors, Cooks, Bussers, Clerks, Factory Workers, Snow Shoveling, Painting, Construction
  - Typically long and late hours
  - No workers comp or workplace protection
- No papers = no lease = insecure housing
- Access to medications and medical services
- Access to higher education
- Stigma in healthcare
Undocumented Elderly & Sick

• Isolation from family support
  – Unable to return, unable to stay...
  – Limited options on hospital discharge
  – Limited options for hospice

• Fragmented care between US + Mexico

• Get cheaper drugs from Mexico
  – High percentage of there are COMPLETELY FAKE
  – Can get narcotics/steroids/antibiotics w/o RX

• Authoritarian medicine
Botanicas

Herbal and spiritual remedies are often first step for patients
Hierba Buena, Rompe Pecho, Aloe, Te de Manzanilla
Patients often don’t know what they are taking
Herbal remedies can be very expensive
What I’ve learned…. 

• Treating a low income, immigrant, Hispanic patients
  – You have to **earn** your patient’s trust
  – Poor language skills = bad care
    • Use simple language and pictures whenever possible
    • Assess literacy – especially in older patients
    • Educate Attendings on proper interpreter use
  – Family medical interpreting = poor understanding and sheltering
  – If you don’t explain need for meds, patients don’t take them
  – Give culturally specific nutrition information
  – Do as much as you can, whenever you can
    • Compliance can be poor, Specialist referrals are almost never attended
How can you help?

Lots of work to be done at many of the underserved clinics in and around Chicago...

- Diabetes education classes
- Nutrition education classes
- Improve promotor education
- Improve case management
- Health screening events
  - Practice Spanish + vitals!
- Help develop on-site pharmacy
- Help administer PAP program
- Medication education & compliance
What’s in it for you?

- Basic clinical skills
  - Physical exam
  - Clinical Spanish
  - Empowering patients to comply with treatment
  - Communicating effectively across cultural barrier
  - Practical medical knowledge
  - Understanding which medications to use for uninsured patients
  - Understanding how to reduce cost and deliver better care
  - How to work as a part of “medical team” to improve care
  - Get inserted into tons of interesting clinical situations!
Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

- Partner with a service organization
- Create your own 200 hour service project
- Work with a Schweitzer and Faculty Mentor
- Monthly inspirational meetings – with other fellows
- Coordinate Biannual symposia
- Fellows for life network
- SchweitzerFellowship.org
- Ray Wang, program director: Rwang@hmprg.org
Humboldt Park – Puerto Rican
Pilsen - Mexican
Little Village / La Villita Mexican
Opportunities to serve...and practice your Spanish!

- Rotate at Underserved Clinics
  - Erie Family Health Center - LSchroeder@eriefamilyhealth.org
  - PCC Salud or PCC Austin - Pluning@Pccwellness.org
  - CHP of IL - Sbauer@chpofil.org
  - Heartland Alliance clinic network – Icarrier@heartlandhealthcenters.org
  - Circle Family Health Center (Kenneth Bretts DO)
  - Jorge Prieto Health Center - johnryanhayes@gmail.com

- Community Health Clinic- Thursday nights 5pm to 9pm

- John Stroger Hospital - Massive patient load, burdened with diseases of poverty
  - Strong percentage monolingual Spanish speakers
  - Relatively few interpreters and or providers that speak Spanish

- UIC hospital – Same population as Stroger, less resources for the Underserved

- MacNeal Hospital – Surgery and Family rotation site – In Berwyn

- Norwegian American Hospital – (Pharmacy Students)

- Advocate Christ and Childrens Hospital ~ OB and Pediatrics sites

- DO Care Midwestern Guatemala trips

- Cook County Jail
Jorge Prieto Health Center & Cook County Health & Hospital System

- Care for the most vulnerable patients, regardless of their ability to pay
  - Comprehensive access to specialty care
  - Patient centered medical home for the poor
- Demographics:
  - 80% monolingual Hispanic
  - 60% undocumented/uninsured/uninsurable

COME SHADOW DR. HAYES: JohnRyanHayes@gmail.com

Team based care:

- Psychology
- Nurse visits for chronic disease
- Population Health Mgmt
- Dental Clinic
- Diabetes/Hypertension Promotoras
- Diabetic Dietician
- Domestic Violence Support Group
- Laboratory
- Minor Procedures

- Prenatal Care
- Mammography
- Case management
- Social work services
- Transportation Assistance
- WIC
- Referral assistance
- PreP coordination
- Suboxone maintenance